(d) whether Government propose to restore this facility;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Dehradun, Rishikesh, Haridwar and Kotwara are the stations which rerve the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh for supply of foodgrains.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the Minister has stated that the provision for wagons has not been withdrawn. Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that this is incorrect. The station received the last wagon on 12.8.90 and thereafter it received a rake of foodgrains as recently as 18.3.92. This is the question for which I require an answer I had also written a letter to the Prime Minister in this regard and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had personally sent a telex to the Minister of Railways on 5 3.92. Only then action was taken. Your answer that wagon was provided during this period is incorrect. With the grace of the hon. Minister of Railways and the Food Corporation of India the people of my constituency were provided with 500 grams of foodgrains per person per month for month of January and February, which is inadequate for even birds. I would like to know from the hon. Minister.

[*English*]

Will the Railway Minister pleased confirm or deny that there was no supply of wagons from 12.8.90 till the end of the year and also during the entire year of 1991?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Mr. Speaker Sir, foodgrains are normally moved when the Food Corporation of India places the indent. Unfortunately, out of the 39 rakes that the Food Corporation of India placed for the movement of foodgrains, for Kotawara, the indent was not there. It is true that the Chief Minster of Uttar Pradesh and the hon. Members have written to our Minister. When the letter has reached us, we have asked the Food Corporation of India and they have made an indent on the 16th of March and we have moved one rake of foodgrains which reached Kotawara on 18.3.1992.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given to the first part of my question is incorrect. My next question is whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that foodgrains are being moved in open wagons resulting in excessive pilferage and adulteration. Consequently, the public, among whom these foodgrains are distributed are made to suffer. If you are aware of it, I would like to know, why these things are taking place and if you are oblivious of it, and if it is country to your policies, then does the Government propose to put an end to it and ensure that foodgrains are despatched in covered wagons?

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Normally, the foodgrains are moved in block rakes. They are covered wagons.

CBSE Examinations

*471. PROF. K. V. THOMAS:
SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of copying and other malpractices in the CBSE Examinations held recently in Delhi have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to curb such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). No cases of mass copying in Delhi during the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Examinations 1992 have come to the notice of the Government so far. The Senior School Certificate Examinations, 1992 of the CBSE are still in progress. However, some cases of individual use of unfair means have been reported which are required to be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Examination Bye-Laws of the Board.

(c) A decision can be taken only after the Examinations when the magnitude and nature of the problem is known.

PROF. K V. THOMAS: Sir, a number of national newspapers carried news of large scale mal-practices, including copying, taking place in the CBSE examinations for the Tenth standard.

Sir, the allegations are: 1. The students are bribing the invigilators and 2. The students thereaten the invigilators.

By means of this, mal-practices are taking place. Sir, I will give all the information that are available with me to the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to give the information. You ask the question.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a detailed investigation will be made in regard to these alleged mal-practices.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, I have already replied that the information regarding mass copying has not figured this year. The question of copying is endemic.

Therefore, measures are taken now and then to see that this mae-practice does not continue. This year, some more measures have been taken. But the overall view upon this issue will certainly be taken by us after the examination and we will evaluate what effect the measures taken this year have on, so that proper approach can be made by the time the examinations come around next year.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, this year, one of the reforms that had been introduced for the examination was setting four sets of questions papers for the same examination. Take the example of Maths paper. Four sets of question papers were set. As a result of that what happens is that, among the four sets, one or two may be tougher question papers. Those students who get tougher question papers are put to a great disadvantageous position.

The students should not be considered as guineapigs for doing experiments on setting question papers.

I want to know whether the Government will look into it and find out what are the failures of the present system of question papers in order to see that all the students get the same type of question papers. The students should not be put to any disadvantageous position. There should not be any difference between the different question papers as regards the standard.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, the moderation of the examination papers has been done carefully. I cannot, however, rule out that there may be odd cases where one question paper is little more harder than the other. But this, multiple type examination paper system has been introduced this year and that is why I am saying, let us see. Let the

examination is over and then all these things can be examined so that whatever shortcomings the hon. Member feel exist can be taken care of.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has both conceded and refuted the charge of malpractices during examinations. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minster whether the Government is away of the fact that the teachers themselves are a party to this and they been doing this by picking and choosing students appearing in the examinations conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education. Sir, with the active connivance of the teachers in mal-practices coming to light, the State-level and All India level examinations conducted by the C. B. S. E. in Delhi have lost their credibility in the eyes of the general public incluliding the students and parents. Therefore, what steps does the Government propose to take to regain the lost credibility and does the Government propose to conduct a thorough investigation in this regard?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there cannot be anything more were, if the teachers themselves become party to malpractices in examinations. It the hon. Minister brings any specific instance to my notice, we shall certainly get the matter investigated.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as requested by the hon. Minister I would like to draw his attention towards some specific incidents. Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that in Rajouri Garden and in another area, the Director of Education found complaints of mass copying by wards of some V.I.P's to be true? Consequently, some teachers were suspended, but within two days the suspension orders were revoked and the matter suppressed. Will the hon. Minster get it investigated?

Does the Government propose to formulateq any law to curb such malpractices and irregularities in examinations?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: With regard to the first question, I would request the hon. Member to give me details about the incident. I shall certainly order an inquiry into it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: One incident took place in Rajouri Gardern and another in Outer Delhi. These incidents have come to my knowledge and therefore, I passed on this information to you.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I have complete faith in the information provided by the hon. Member and that is why, I have called for the details of these incidents, so that I can get them probed.

So far as the question of formulating a general law in this regard is concerned, I feel that the Government should take into consideration all pros and cons before taking any step. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Suburban Tickets

*473. SHRI TARIT TOPDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total increase in the earnings from the sale of suburban tickets annually for the last three years alongwith the percentage of proportionate increase in the fare of these tickets; and

(b) the reasons for discontinuing the system of bearing social costs towards suburban passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The increase in suburban earnings in the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and